

Welcome!

Section #1: Intro and IR Theory

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Intro to IR theory

Realism

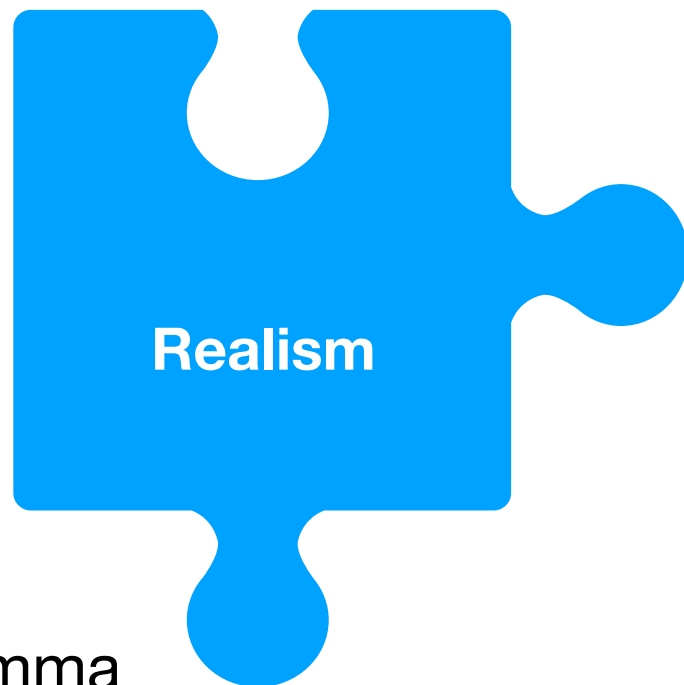
Liberalism

Constructivism

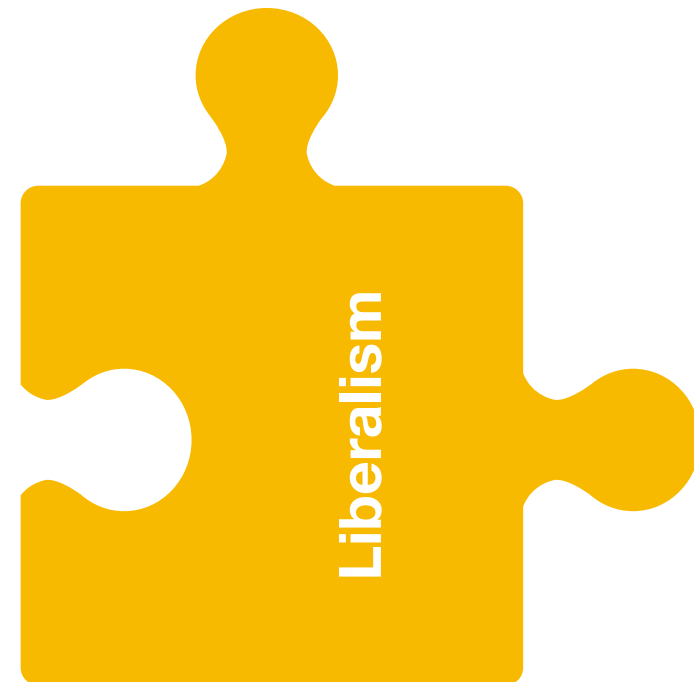
Jigsaw IR Theories



- Social structure
- Social fact
- Intersubjectivity



- Anarchy
- Self-help
- Security dilemma



- Kantian tripod
- Liberal institutionalism

Why did the US withdraw its troops from Afghanistan?



Source: Jim Huylebroek for The New York Times (May 2021)

Why did the US withdraw its troops from Afghanistan?

1. Prioritization of great power competition **Realism**
2. Domestic dissatisfaction with costs of war **Liberalism***
3. Changing ideas about US role in the world **Constructivism**

Which theory do you find the most compelling in this case? Can you think of alternative explanations?

IR Theory Bingo

Prompt	Answer
This school of thought sees IR as a tragic realm of arming and war.	
The phenomenon that one state's gain in security threatens the security of other states.	
This school of IR theory emphasizes the impact of commerce, domestic political institutions, and international institutions on IR.	
This school of IR theory emphasizes the role of social identity, norms, and ideas in shaping IR.	

IR Theory Bingo

Prompt	Answer
This scholar argues that international institutions are mere puppets of great powers.	
This political philosopher is considered foundational to liberalism.	
This term refers to the idea that democracies do not go to war with one another.	
This is a basic assumption realist and IR theories make about the structure of the international system.	

IR Theory Bingo

Prompt	Answer
Scholar(s) that argue in favor of the ability of international institutions to make IR less “tragic.”	
This concept refers to understandings about our self by participating in collective meanings.	
This concept refers to the ability of repeated interactions between states to support cooperation.	
According to realism, anarchy implies that the international system is “_____” (i.e., can’t dial 911).	

IR Theory Bingo

Prompt	Answer
Pioneer in constructivist IR thought.	
This concept basically means power is zero-sum. Thus, meaningful cooperation in IR is very difficult.	
Expected patterns of behavior thought (by at the very least constructivists) to shape IR.	
Harvard professor who studies IR and political psychology.	

IR Theory Bingo Word Bank

Realism	Prof. Kertzer	Wendt	Anarchy	Relative gains	Liberalism
Mearsheimer	Security dilemma	Keohane & Martin	Democratic peace	Constructivism	Shadow of the future
Social identity	self- help	Kant	norms		